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## THE JANE DOW NIES MEMORIAL BUILDING

The Schools have taken two long steps forward since the beginning of the year. In other columns of this BULLETIN we have extracts from Director Albright's letters concerning his excavations at Tell el-Ful. This is the first considerable undertaking of the kind we have attempted and is a promise of our purpose to fulfill one of the primary objects of the School at Jerusalem.

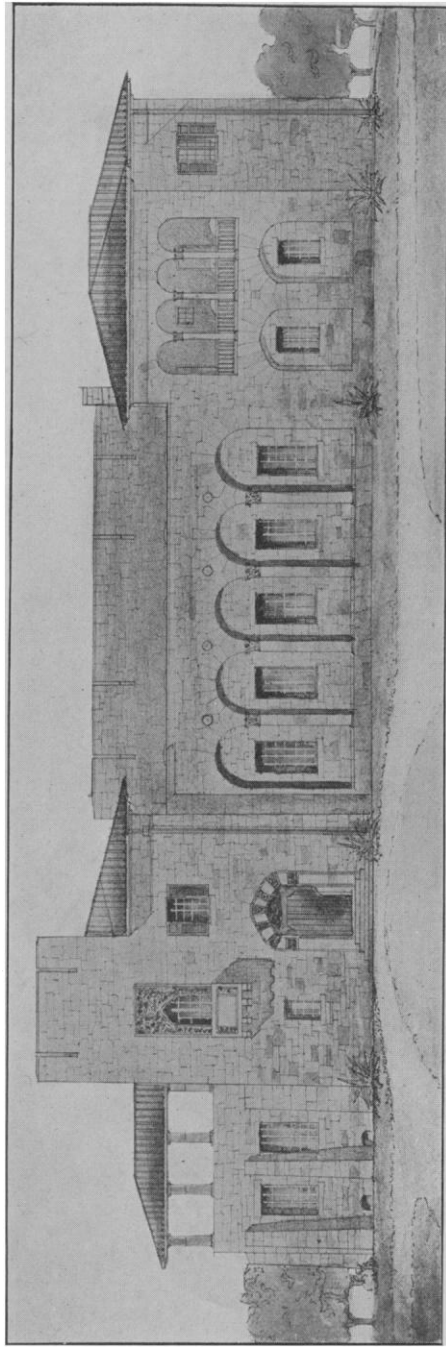
The other notable event is the practical consummation of our long cherished hopes for the erection of the School's building at Jerusalem. The gift of \$50,000 from the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. James B. Nies has been waiting for peace in Palestine to be realized. In the past winter the undertaking of plans was begun, and the subject was offered to the students in the Yale School of Architecture under the direction of Dean Meeks, who gave himself generously and wholeheartedly to the task. Prizes were offered by Dr. Nies. The competition was adjudged in February and at a meeting of the Trustees on February 18 the plans awarded the first prize were unanimously accepted. The successful student is Mr. P. E. Isbell of the Yale School. The plans were then referred back to Dean Weeks, who is also a member of the New York firm of Carrere & Hastings, and he was appointed Consulting Architect. Further study of the plans was continued, and on March 15 Dr. Nies sailed with them on the City of Lahore for Port Said, and so to Jerusalem. Here he planned to obtain the services of a constructing architect and after a study of materials and prices, upon consultation with the Trustees, to let contracts for the building.

The following letter from Dr. Nies, of April 7, from the School at Jerusalem, indicates the progress he has made, and as well illustrates the ease of communication and travel which has rapidly developed in Palestine.

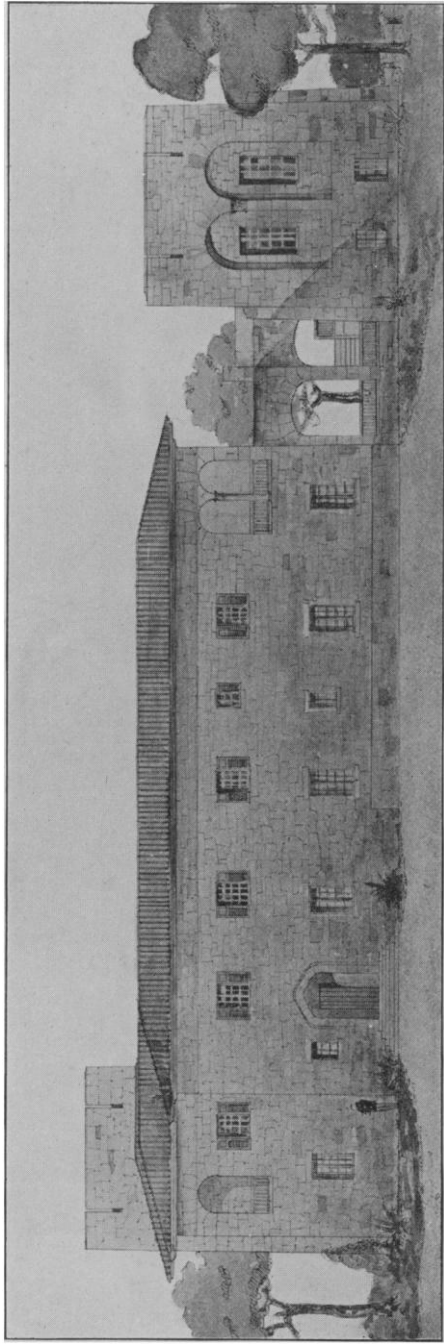
### EXTRACTS FROM A LETTER OF DR. NIES

The railroad to Jerusalem goes first to Cantara. It leaves Port Said at 6 P. M., dinner on train. Arrive Cantara at 7 P. M. Wait there until ten when one enters the cars. At 1 A. M. comes train from Cairo to which the waiting cars are attached and leaves for Jerusalem. After sunrise we had the sea on the left passing El Arish, Gaza, Ashdod and other places. Breakfast on train—and lunch about eleven. We arrived at Jerusalem at 1.50 P. M., an hour late and I was met by Albright and Gelat. The former gave me a room at the School where I am very comfortable and have been busy securing information as to architects, contractors, materials such as stone, etc. The best recommended and no doubt the ablest architect in Palestine is Frederick Ehmann, Architect, now in Haifa but who expects soon to come to Jerusalem to live where he owns a house. He is the same architect whom Robinson had engaged to put up the building when Director of the School. He has erected a number of famous buildings and seemed to be the man we need. So yesterday April 10th, at 7 A. M., Albright and I took plans and Weeks' instructions and went to Haifa, via Nazareth, by automobile in 6½ hours. We found Ehmann the architect easily. He expected us as we had telegraphed and he had replied. We spent the afternoon with him and believe, with the plans and instructions, that we made clear to him what we expected in the way of a building.

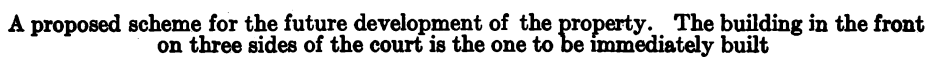
Next week the architect will come to Jerusalem to see the site of the School. Meanwhile he will copy the plans with the changes proposed and



Front view of the Jane Dow Nies Memorial Building



Side view of the same (the building to the right is the proposed Library, to be built subsequently)



**A proposed scheme for the future development of the property. The building in the front on three sides of the court is the one to be immediately built**

prepare estimates so that we shall know just where we stand. We recommended Gelat under all circumstances where the help of a contractor may be needed.

I may add that Ehmann was the Architect for the Friends' School at Ramallah; of the present notable government house on the Mount of Olives and of several school and many other private and public buildings.

### OUR EXCAVATION AT TELL EL-FUL

It has long been the desire of the management of the School at Jerusalem to undertake some actual digging in Palestine. A modest effort of this kind has been launched in commissioning Director Albright to make a trial exploration at Tell el-Ful, a prominent site three miles north of Jerusalem, on the Nablus road. The Director selected this site and an appropriation of \$1000 has been made for this purpose.

A letter from the Director of March 19 reports that actual digging had been begun, and one day's digging had resulted in several baskets full of potsherds dating from the seventh to the second century B. C. Operations were then temporarily suspended by a quarrel—the usual thing in such cases—between the people of the two neighboring villages, which disputed the proprietary rights to the Tell.

### PRELIMINARY REPORTS ON TELL EL-FUL

Director Albright's preliminary excavations at Tell el-Ful have begun. Our readers will be interested in having the immediate reports of his results, and we give the following extracts from his letters. Of course all these current reports are subject to correction by subsequent findings.

March 19, 1922.

We have so far dug one day in Tell el-Ful, March 17. At the end of the day an altercation arose between Sha'fat and Beit Hannina, the two villages interested, and we put off the resumption of the work until Monday or Tuesday this week. Our first day resulted in the collection of six baskets full of potsherds and other small objects dating from the seventh to the third or second century before our era.

March 26, 1922.

We resumed excavations at Tell el-Ful Tuesday, March 21, and continued to yesterday, March 25, five days, in addition to our initial three-fourths of a day. Our force has varied this week from sixteen to twenty-five, besides the "overseer," who hires the men and boys, takes care of the tools, and keeps the other owners of the site quiet. As he owns a fourth of the site, it is useful to have him with us, though we have to do all the driving of the laborers. The first five days' wages were twenty pounds in all. We can thus work about three weeks longer.

We have dug trenches in various parts of the hill-top, and are now devoting all our attention to the *rujm*, or monticule on top, which is proving intensely interesting. The trenches brought to light foundations of house-walls, two wine-presses of different characters, and two grain-pits. The depth of débris was most irregular, ranging from some ten cm. a few rods out from the bottom of the *rujm* to as much as a metre and a half in one place just south of it. We collected quantities of potsherds, loom-weights, diorite grinders, and broken Jewish lamps from the trenches, all belonging,